



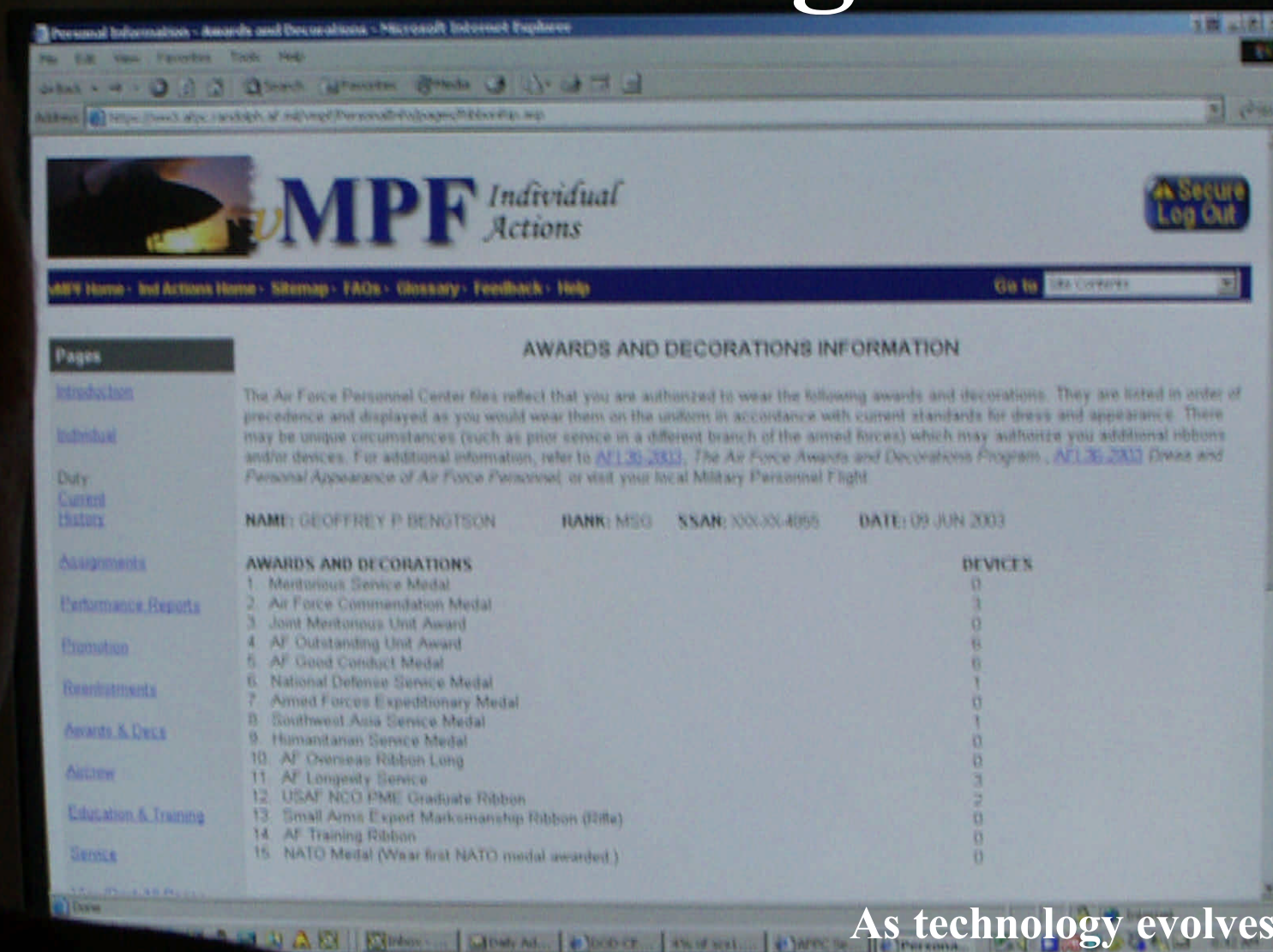
THE LEADER

Vol. 38, No. 25

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ www.grandforks.af.mil

June 27, 2003

MPF goes virtual



As technology evolves so does
the military personnel flight

-- See Pages 14-15

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (July 2000 to June 2002)

Inside: Standing guard

Weekend weather

Today 68/53 partly cloudy
Saturday 73/53 isol. T-storms
Sunday 75/58 mostly cloudy
Monday 78/58 mostly cloudy



Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

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Page 3



'Operation Air Froce'

Page 12



Operation Desert Scorpion continues

The mission: Search for rocket-propelled grenade rounds, explosives and other illegal weapons in Iraq

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Operation Desert Scorpion continues throughout Iraq, said Army 5th Corps officials.

Officials said Combined Joint Task Force 7 commanders are using all available assets in the hunt for former Saddam Hussein regime officials and forces. This includes air power and special operations forces as needed, said 5th Corps officials.

Army forces from the 3rd Infantry Division, the 4th Infantry Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment have conducted raids throughout the country. "These raids are forcible entry to buildings or compounds where suspected regime figures are," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian Thomas, a 5th Corps spokesman.

These targets are not arbitrary. "These are highly coordinated, intelligence-driven operations," Thomas said. "These are places where we've been shot at, ambushed from and we have tracked the actions to these people."

These raids have yielded a number of results. 101st Airborne soldiers conducted three raids and detained 12 individuals. The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted 11 raids and detained 39 individuals. Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division conducted seven raids and detained 53 individuals.

The 4th Infantry Division conducted 43 raids and initially detained 288 individuals. Sixty-five of the detained are being held. The 3rd Infantry Division conducted five raids and detained 20. The 3rd also seized 20 anti-tank rounds, three AK-47s, one rocket-propelled grenade and some C4 explosives along with detonators.

Desert Scorpion began June 15. Humanitarian missions are a component of the operation. In the north, units helped to facilitate payment of civilian workers and to establish a police academy. In Baghdad, units helped repair roads and pipelines. In the central region, units continue to escort fuel convoys throughout the area of operation.

5th Corps officials hasten to point out that the units are not ignoring their other regular missions, such as routine



Photo by Senior Airman Michele G. Misiano

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AFPN) — Staff Sgt. David Countie helps form a security perimeter around the trucks of the Red Tail Express recently. The express delivers supplies to servicemembers at forward-deployed locations. When the vehicles stop, people riding shotgun set up the perimeter to deter aggressors while the drivers check their cargo. Countie is assigned to the 332nd Vehicle Operations Squadron.

patrolling and rebuilding efforts.

In other action, U.S. Central Command reported that a sniper killed a 1st Armored Division soldier in Baghdad. The soldier was part of a patrol

in the northwest section of Baghdad.

The soldier was struck in the back by a small-caliber bullet. Name and unit of the soldier are being withheld pending notification of the next of kin.



Action Line
747-4522

The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base.

For questions about current events or rumors, please leave a message.

100%

Mission effectiveness rating

34

DWI-free Days



Col. Keye Sabol
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

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tion, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

♦**Deadlines** -- Articles: Due by noon Thursday the week prior to publication. For any questions about submissions, call The Leader staff at 747-5019.

♦**Contact information** -- E-mail: leader@grandforks.af.mil, Phone: 701.747.5023

♦**Public Affairs** -- Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 319th ARW public affairs office. Copy submitted for publication is edited to conform to the Associated Press Stylebook and for length.

♦**Advertisements** -- Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1275 before noon Tuesday.

Air Force promotes newest technical, master sergeants

Congratulations to the following staff sergeants selected for promotion to technical sergeant Thursday.

342nd Recruiting Squadron

Brawley, Clinton S.
Johnson, Paul R.
Layfield, Joshua H.
Lindsey, Charley H.
Macintosh, Scott W.
Phifer, Vincent C.
Shepherd, David R.
Westfall, Christoph



10th Space Warning Squadron

Seilaff, Eric S.

319th Air Refueling Wing

Bailey, Tracy J.
Flores, Fermiliano
Franklin, David W.
Johnson, Carolyn S.
Taylor, Jeffery D.

319th Services Squadron

Richter, Markus S. I

319th Civil Engineer Sqadron

Cleveland, Scott G.
Coffman, Kenneth D.
Kimball, Jeffrey P.
Reeves, Dewayne E.

Sharief, Mohamed R.

319th Security Forces Squadron

Buckley, Patrick R.
Dziwulski, Mark J.

319th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Anderson, Randy C.
Aumiller, Steven G.
Baker, John M.
Booth, Dale A.
Line, Bradley K.
Mitchell, Darin J.
Wakefield, Mark L.

Warner, Robert M II
Winkler, Nora W.
Winkler, Scott D.

319th Communications Squadron

Brooks, Penelope R.
Campbell, Christoph
Feeley, Diana P.
Houston Jonathan B.
Jensen, Roy L.
Wickman, Joseph A.

319th Operation Support Squadron

Busha, Ronnie L.
Culley, Christopher
Demaronese, Michael
Warner, Ann E.

Wood, Bryan D.

906th Air Refueling Squadron

Lambert, Donnie T. J.

319th Maintenance Squadron

Barrow, Ricky J.
English, Hudson M.
Gardner, Lawrence E.
Scheuer, John E.
Whalen, Wendy A.

319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Jackson, Robert L.
Malone, Shawn M.
Mueller, Mark W.
Peterson, Brian B.
Searcy, Randell P.
Vandergeeten, Paul

319th Maintenance Group

Foote, Robert J.
Kuehn, Kevin W.
Miller, Daniel S.

319th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Bollig, Mark A.
Cook, Tommy E. Jr.
Rodriguez, Luis A.
Wilcox, William P.

319th Medical Operations Squadron

Hale, Brook A.

Moore, Douglas A.

319th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Chandler, Keri A.

319th Medical Support Squadron

Hedberg, Shawni L.
Ransom, Wilhelmina

Congratulations to the following technical sergeants selected for promotion to master sergeant Thursday.



342nd Recruiting Squadron

Beam, Cynthia C.
Retelle, Ricky A.

373rd Training Squadron

Lemay, Chadwick J.

10th Space Warning Squadron

Parente Timothy R

319th Air Refueling Wing

Davis Anthony S
Middelton, Kari A.

319th Comptroller Squadron

Flickinger, Erica D.
Sletten, David B.

-- See **PROMOTIONS**, next page

**-- PROMOTIONS, continued
from previous page**

319th Contracting Squadron

Jacob, Kenneth J.

319th Mission Support Squadron

Cislo, David J.

Hollis, Keith R. Jr.

319th Civil Engineer Squadron

Durako, Michael A.

Kennedy, Michael L.

Pawlikowski, Robert

319th Security Forces Squadron

Arend, Todd R.

Barta, Peter R.

Lopez, Eric

319th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Keller, Chad M.

Ulivi, Steven M.

Voorhees, David L.

319th Communications Squadron

Borchert, Shane A.

Scheel, Robert J.

Villella, James A.

319th Operations Group

Denner, Charlene K.

319th Maintenance Group

Burman, Thomas L.

Gomes, Paula L.

**319th Maintenance Operations
Squadron**

Barnes, Wallace L.

Shuster, Steven A.

319th Maintenance Squadron

Cain, Patrick A.

Ruport, Leland B.

Weaver, Dale H.

319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Alter, Chris O.

Douglas, Christopher

Holmes, Jamie L.

Karpinski, Thomas R.

Lewis, James S.

Marshall, Daniel G.

319th Medical Operations Squadron

Breon, David J.

319th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Mihelich, Deanna C.



New ID cards are secure, ready

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER

- The high-tech identification Common Access Card, or CAC, currently replacing familiar green IDs worldwide is secure and proven in combat, despite some rumors to the contrary.

"Worries are unfounded" that the new IDs are easily accessible to identity thieves or even hostile forces, said Chief Master Sgt. Ricky Arnold, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape program manager at the Pentagon.

"These cards are not a risk to anyone's privacy or security," said the chief.

"We thoroughly researched the security risks before we even began to issue common access cards," said Maj. Gen. Richard Mentemeyer, director of operations and training at the Air Staff.

"We were satisfied then, and recent events have reinforced our belief that common access cards are not only secure and safe but also provide required Geneva Conventions information in the event an airman is captured," the general said.

"In a war zone or at home station, there should be no hesitation: Don't leave home without it," he said.

The card does not contain any personal information electronically that isn't already printed on the card, officials said. What it does is allow for electronic access to computer systems that contain personal data. Also, an extra layer of protection is provided when a card is reported lost or the cardholder goes into missing or captured status. At that point computer and data system access is turned off, officials said.

And built-in electronic security measures make getting access to what information is on the chip extremely difficult, if not impossible, officials said.

"To date, there has not been a single successful attempt to extract information

from one of these cards. We know that airmen isolated in hostile areas don't have to worry, because we have tested and validated during Operation Iraqi Freedom the process for turning off computer access," Chief Arnold said.

Common access cards should be issued across the Department of Defense by October to all eligible Air Force active duty, guard, reserve, civilians and some contractors, officials said.

Rumors that some deployed airmen destroyed or lost their CAC cards in an effort to get an old-fashioned green ID card reissued to them spurred officials to conduct an informal study into the matter, the chief said.

"The results showed no evidence of that sort of activity--which would be illegal, since the cards are government property," he said.

"The statistics don't show any cases where people are intentionally maneuvering to get old-style cards. And we checked specifically for indications of that. It just seems to be a completely unfounded rumor," he said.

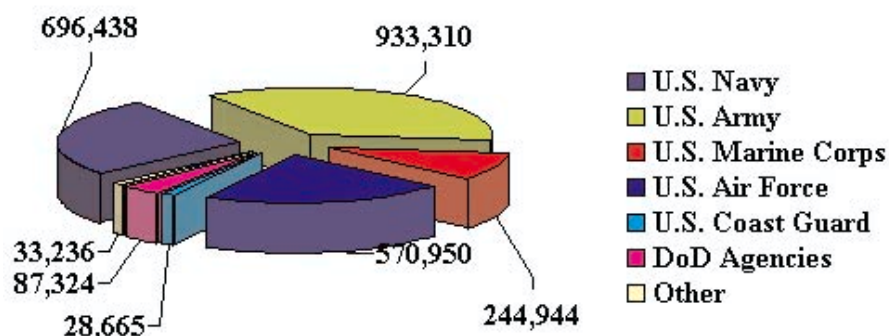
Even in hostile areas, the new CACs do not put peoples' privacy and security at risk, officials said.

Each card bears a color photo and service seal of the holder, required visible personal data, a magnetic strip, linear and two-dimensional barcodes, and a 32 kilobyte computer chip.

"The amount of information on the new ID cards is less than people normally voluntarily give to salespeople or over the internet to buy things with their credit cards," said the general.

Even if someone had the extensive knowledge and expensive equipment needed to get information off the chip, an attempt would take longer than eight hours per card, and cause the card to be deactivated and/or destroyed in the process, he said.

**2,594,867 CACs Issued
as of 31 May**



New uniforms

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials are considering an Air Force-distinctive uniform to replace the current battle dress uniform, according to service officials.

A fit and wear test of the uniform is pending, officials said. The test will determine the best direction to respond to Air Force needs for a 21st century utility uniform.

Many new Air Force uniforms and uniform items are fit or wear tested in the field before becoming available.

This wear test usually lasts between six months to one year but can be extended based upon the complexity of the uniform and feedback from the wear testers, officials explained. Positive and negative feedback is collected to ensure necessary improvements are made to the uniform or item before any decision is made to adopt it or not.

At the conclusion of the wear test, Air Force leaders will review the feedback and input from testers and a decision will be made to implement all, some or none of the test uniform.

Stop-Loss ends

WASHINGTON — The last of the airmen whose retirement or separation was delayed by Stop-Loss for Operation Iraqi Freedom were released June 23 and will be eligible to leave the service July 31.

Air Force officials authorized Stop-Loss for 43 offi-



cer and 56 enlisted specialties in early March to meet national security objectives, specifically the war in Iraq. More than half of the specialties — 31 officer and 20 enlisted — were released from the program May 14.

The Stop-Loss release applies to all active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard people in all enlisted grades and officers in the grade of colonel and below; however, deployed airmen must remain in place for the duration of their deployment, he added.

Military personnel flight officials will contact people who had a previously approved/suspended retirement or separation to review their options and establish a new departure date. Released airmen will be allowed up to five months transition time.

Short-tour credit for deployments

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — A temporary exception to policy will award permanent change of station short tour credit to many airmen deployed overseas for recent contingency operations.

Eligible members must have been on temporary duty starting on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for a minimum of 181 consecutive days at an overseas location designated as a hostile fire/imminent danger pay area.

This credit is intended to reduce the chances of those airmen being sent as non-volunteers to an unaccompanied PCS short tour soon after a prolonged contingency deployment.

The change is an exception to current policy, which only authorizes short tour credit for members accumulating 300 or more days TDY overseas during a con-

secutive 18-month period.

This exception is not without precedent. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, an exception to policy was approved to authorize PCS short tour credit to members who served TDY in the area of responsibility for at least 181 consecutive days from Aug. 1, 1990 to June 10, 1991.

It's the members' responsibility to request PCS short tour credit through the MPF, Personnel Employment Element at their permanent duty station. The request must be initiated after completion of the TDY voucher. The paid voucher will be the source document used to verify the dates of TDY and if the location qualified for payment of hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

Combatant taken into custody

Department of Defense took control of Ali Saleh Kahlah al-Marri, Wednesday, after the President designated him to be an enemy combatant. Ali-Marri was transferred to the Naval Consolidated Brig, in Charleston, South Carolina, where he will be detained.

This action was taken due to recent credible information provided by other detainees in the War on Terrorism.

Enemy combatant status may be used to describe an individual who, under the laws and customs of war, has become a member of or associated himself with hostile enemy forces, thereby attaining the status of a belligerent.

-- See **BRIEFS**, next page

Public notification

Grand Forks AFB has proposed the following action: Aerial Application of Pesticide for Mosquito Control. An environmental assessment has been conducted and a Finding of No Significant Impact has been determined for the action.

If you would like to view this document, please contact the Public Affairs office within the next thirty days at (701) 747-5017.

More money for retirees

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- Some military retirees will soon be receiving monthly payments for service-related health problems thanks to a provision of the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

Combat-related special compensation allows some disabled military retirees to collect payments for both their military service and their service-related disability.

According to the legislation, a veteran with "combat-related" disabilities is any 20-year military retiree with at least a 60 percent combined disability rating. His or her injuries are a "direct result of armed conflict," are a result of "hazardous" military service, were incurred while serving in "conditions simulating war" or were incurred "through an instrumentality of war."

Automatic qualifiers include any military retiree with at least 20 years of service who is rated as at least 10 percent disabled by injuries related to the award of a Purple Heart, officials said.

Payments are retroactive to June 1 for those whose disability occurred before that date. Those who apply and are approved will begin receiving payments about 60 days after approval. Depending on the number of applicants, approval could take months, officials said.

Thousands of applications already await approval in the disabilities office here, with more arriving every day, officials said.

To qualify, retired Reserve applicants must have retired with 7,200 or more total points.

Information and applications are available at base military personnel flights or online at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/crsc/>. Air Force applicants can print and send the application and any supporting docu-

mentation to:

United States Air Force, Disability Division (CRSC), 550 C Street West Suite 6, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4708.

Appropriate supporting documentation includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Department of Defense Form 214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty.
- Air Force Form 356, Findings and Recommended Disposition of USAF Physical Evaluation Board.
- Retirement orders.
- Purple Heart citation and orders.
- Any documentation indicating combat-related findings.
- Assignment or temporary duty orders.
- Medical records.
- Any VA disability rating decisions made within the last year.

More information is available by calling the Air Force Contact Center toll free at (866) 229-7074, commercial (210) 565-5000 or DSN 665-5000.

Selection board

The cycle year 2003A MC/DC Central Selection Boards are scheduled to convene at HeadquartersAir Force Personnel Center Nov. 17. The tentative eligibility criteria:

Colonel:

- Above-the-Promotion Zone (APZ): DOR: 31 May 98 or earlier with a previous nonselection
- In-the-Promotion Zone (IPZ): DOR: 1 Jun 98 through 31 May 99
- Below-the-Promotion Zone (BPZ): DOR: 1 Jun 99 through 31 May 00 (1 year BPZ) 1 Jun 00 through 31 May 01 (2 year BPZ)

Lieutenant Colonel:

- Above-the-Promotion Zone: (APZ): DOR: 31 May 98 or earlier with a previous nonselection
- In-the-Promotion Zone: (IPZ): DOR: 1 Jun 98 through 31 May 99
- Below-the-Promotion Zone: (BPZ): DOR: 1 Jun 99 through 31 May 00 (1 year BPZ) 1 Jun 00 through 31 May 01 (2 year BPZ)

Major:

- Above-the-Promotion Zone: (APZ): DOR: 31 May 98 or earlier with a previous nonselection
- In-the-Promotion Zone: (IPZ): DOR: 1 Jun 98 through 31 May 99
- No Below-the-Promotion Zone to major. For more information call Master Sgt. Marie Brunswick at 747-5089

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.
Daily Mass: Tuesday through Friday 11:30 a.m. Sunflower Chapel.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

PROTESTANT:
Traditional worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.
Contemporary worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.
Young Adults: 6 p.m. Friday, Chaplain Swain’s home, 747-4359.
Men of the Chapel Bible Study: Noon Monday, Prairie Rose Conference Room.

JEWISH:
For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or Synagogue B’nai Israel at 775-5124.

RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:
For details call Dr.. Levitov 780-6540.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:
For details call 747-5673.

Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.
The Matrix Reloaded (R)
The machines have discovered the last human city, Zion, located in the Earth's core, and an army of Squiddies is sent to destroy it. Neo (Keanu Reeves), the all-powerful One, must race to beat them there before launching a final battle that pits the last remaining unplugged humans against the machines. Along the way, with Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) by his side, Neo battles Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving) and his clones, and a set of evil twins, among many enemies. Reloaded ends in a cliffhanger, setting up the trilogy's finale, The Matrix Revolutions..

Saturday, 3 p.m.
Daddy Day Care (PG)
After a father (Eddie Murphy) and his co-worker and friend (Jeff Garlin) both lose their jobs, they're forced to take their boys out of prestigious Chapman Academy and become stay-at-home dads. The two free spirits have an idea: start an unconventional day-care center. But when the icy director of Chapman (Anjelica Huston) finds out about the success of Daddy Day Care, she plots to run them out of business.

Saturday, 7 p.m.
The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Saturday, 7 p.m.
Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG)
****This is a pre-release and may be viewed free.***

Sinbad (Brad Pitt), the dashing, adventurous sailor who appeared in Arabian Nights, is framed by Eris (Michelle Pfeiffer), the Goddess of Chaos, for stealing the powerful and priceless Book of Peace. He must retrieve the book or else his best friend, Proteus (Joseph Fiennes), will be killed. Proteus' betrothed, Marina (Catherine Zeta-Jones), sets sail with Sinbad, and the two encounter various monsters and obstacles during their journey into Eris' evil world.

Closed July Fourth weekend

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults
For details, call 747-3021/6123.



First-time user gives perspective of Air Force’s virtual personal service

By 2nd Lt Erica Foster
319th Mission Support Squadron

This article is written to help you understand what the vMPF is, what it has to offer, and how to access its different areas. Since I am also new to vMPF all of the articles will be written from the point of view of a first time user.

The acronym vMPF stands for virtual Military Personnel Flight. The vMPF offers information over most of the programs you normally visit the MPF for. Therefore, instead of having to run to or call the MPF every time you have a question you can just as quickly research the information on-line.

The best thing about the vMPF is that it doesn't close for training, is always available during those awkward times of the day like lunch and holidays, is easy to find, and there aren't any waiting lines.

Here's how to gain access to the vMPF site:

1. Log on to the AFPC website <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/> (you can do this from home too!).
2. Click on AFPC.
3. Click on "click here for vMPF."
4. Again click on "click here for vMPF."
5. Click on either military, civilian, or other (which ever applies) where it says, "...create/re-create an account" (at the bottom of the page).
6. Follow the directions from there to create an account.
7. You now have access to the vMPF.

Now, that you're in, here's what vMPF has to offer.

Your personal site contains information about: vMPF's Frequently Asked Questions, glossary with definitions, system announcements, and a place to offer feedback. Your vMPF also contains information about "Individual Actions." Individual Actions include subjects such as Assignments, Customer Service, Employments, Personal Information, Retirements, and Separations.

Below is a list of all of the Individual Actions and what they cover:

Assignments

- ☐ Circuitous Travel
- ☐ CONUS Isolated Assignment Application
- ☐ Dependents Remaining Overseas Application
- ☐ DEROS Management
- ☐ Designated Location Move Application (DLM)
- ☐ Early Return of Dependents Application (ERD)
- ☐ Exceptional Family Member Program Application
- ☐ Humanitarian Assignment Application
- ☐ Join Spouse Application
- ☐ Out Processing
- ☐ Permissive Permanent Change of Station
- ☐ Report No Later Than Date (RNLTD) change Request
- ☐ Sole Surviving Son or Daughter Assignment Restriction

Career Enhancements

- ☐ Promotions

Customer Service

- ☐ Proof of Service Letter
- ☐ SSAN Application Counseling

Employment

- ☐ Duty/Employment History Inquiry

Personal Information

- ☐ Data Verification Brief
- ☐ Record Review RIP

Retirements

- ☐ Initial Retirement Brief
- ☐ DD Form 214 Worksheet



2nd Lt. Erica Foster



- ☐ Entitlements Counseling
- ☐ Retirement PreApplication Checklist

Separations

- ☐ DD Form 214 Worksheet
- ☐ Initial Separation Briefing
- ☐ Request to Change/Withdrawal Voluntary Separation
- ☐ Palace Chase

Need Help?

Now I'll tackle a vMPF topic dear to us all . . . assignments. In the vMPF assignments issues you can access everything from Circuitous Travel to Sole Surviving Son or Daughter Assignment Restrictions. Below is a brief introduction of each part as well as what is offered.

Circuitous Travel: Circuitous travel is any route other than one a transportation officer normally prescribes between designated locations. In the vMPF you can find out if you qualify and fill out a circuitous travel application on-line!

CONUS Isolated Assignment Program (CIAP): The purpose of CIAP is to establish minimum tour lengths and limit certain assignment combinations that involve CONUS isolated stations. The four locations designated as CONUS isolated are Stallion Missile Range, NM; Cavalier, ND; Utah Test and Training Range, UT; and Boulder, WY. On the vMPF there is information about tour lengths, volunteering for CIAP, reassignment from CIAP, and how to apply for this program. If you are currently assigned to a CONUS isolated base (like our readers at the GSU at Cavalier) you can

apply by filling out an application on the vMPF to be assigned to another base.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP): EFMP is designed to ensure dependents of military members receive the special medical or educational care they require at the current or projected duty location. The spirit and intent of EFMP is to assign members based on current or projected manning requirements at locations where the required services are available. VMPF provides information on mandatory eligibility, when to apply, your responsibilities, how to process the application, assignment consideration, conditions usually disapproved, a sample medical letter, EFMP application, AF Forms 1466 (Request for Family Member's Medical and Education Clearance for Travel) and 1466A (request for Family Member Educational Information) are also available. VMPF also allows you to fill out an on-line application.

Humanitarian Reassignment or Deferment Program: This program assists members to resolve severe short-term problems involving a family member where reassigning you to a location closer to your family will help resolve the issue. Here the vMPF provides definitions, eligibility, when to apply, your responsibilities, on-line applications, how to process the application, reasons for approval/disapproval, and a sample medical letter.

Join Spouse Assignments: "Join spouse" as it's referred to, assists assigning military couples together whenever possible at a location where both can live in the same residence. Understanding this program and

applying it correctly is essential in preventing family separations. The vMPF offers information about eligibility, ineligibility reasons, documentation, and instructions how to apply. There is an on-line application that you can fill out on the vMPF to start the process. Enlisted members will need to complete the AF Form 1048, Military Spouse Information as well.

Permissive PCS Assignment Program: There are actually two types of permissive reassignments: the expanded permissive, and the CONUS assignment exchange. VMPF provides information on both programs and the different avenues for applying for CONUS Assignment Exchange depending on whether you are an officer or enlisted.

Sole Surviving Son Or Daughter Assignment Restriction: The purpose of this program is to restrict an otherwise eligible member from duties involving combat with the enemy, and preclude assignments to any overseas hostile fire or imminent danger area. This restriction does not preclude the assignment of a sole surviving son or daughter to an overseas area where combat conditions are nonexistent. This program has very strict eligibility criteria. The vMPF provides further information on eligibility, documentation, examples, applications, and how to look for further help.

Now I'll go over Career Enhancements, Customer Service, Employments, and Personal Information areas in your vMPF.

The Career Enhancements section of vMPF offers information about promotions. This is one area very much tailored to you. It takes your personal information to determine such things as your promotion eligibility. In my case it gave me information about officer promotions as well as offering a place (the Data Verification Brief) to check and make sure that all of my personal information is correct.

The Customer Service section provides items such as an on-line Proof of Service, social security applications and counseling and information on how to recover or replace a social security account number. It also offers information on how to request, replace a lost card, or change your name on your present card.

Employments Duty/Employment History inquiries in vMPF can be used to review your official personal information from the Military Personnel Data System in a variety of ways. The areas include assignments, performance reports, promotion, duty history, awards and decorations, aircrew, education and training, and service. Old duty information for prior service personnel is not maintained in the database.

Data Verification Briefs (DVB) and Record Review RIPs are the two areas that are offered under the Personal Information section of vMPF. The information contained in both of these reports reflects the info contained in the Military Personnel Data System. I found that the Record Review RIP offers the same information that's under the Employments Duty/Employment History Inquiry.

Now I'll touch on the retirements and separations sections of vMPF as well as how to contact various centers if you have any questions about vMPF.

The Retirement sections contain: The Initial Separation/Retirement Briefing, DD Form 214

Worksheet, Entitlements Counseling, and Retirement PreApplication Checklist.

The Initial Separation Retirement Briefing is for those people who have already applied and received an approved retirement or separation date through the MPF and would rather just knock out the briefing on line rather than in person at the MPF. It's perfectly acceptable for you to read this briefing without having an approved retirement or separation date, however, reading this briefing does not take the place of applying for retirement or separation through your MPF.

The DD Form 214 Worksheet Verification Application is designed to allow you to access and review the data that will be used to formulate your DD Form 214, Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty. Reviewing your DD 214 prior to finalization is a mandatory requirement if you have an approved active duty separation or retirement. If you are separating or retiring from active duty please review and initiate your corrections. After you've reviewed and initiated your corrections (if applicable), provide your completed printed application along with any applicable source documents to the MPF Relocations section.

The Entitlements section of vMPF provides numerous fact sheets with information to assist you in making decisions regarding your retirement processing. The Retirement Options fact sheet provides general information on retirement planning, place of retirement, and entitlements for storage and movement of household goods. The Overseas Home of Selection and Record fact sheets provide travel and transportation information for Air Force members who are retiring from an overseas duty location.

You may also complete your Pre-Application Checklist so you can identify the effects applying for retirement will have on your promotion eligibility, reenlistment eligibility (if applicable), and other areas of concern. You must complete this checklist prior to submitting your retirement application.

Finally, those wishing to look into separating share two subjects with the retirements part of vMPF: DD Form 214 Worksheet and Initial Separation/Retirement Briefing. In addition, the Request to Change/Withdraw Voluntary Separation is available for those who already have an approved date of separation. The Palace Chase program is also on vMPF. This program allows active duty Air Force members to voluntarily transfer from active military service into the Air National Guard or Reserves prior to their current established date of separation.

The last part of vMPF is a section titled Need Help. Like the title says, it's there to provide information and phone numbers to the Technical Assistance Center if you encounter problems with your vMPF. There are also phone numbers to the "HQ Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) Contact Center. They are available around the clock by both phone and email to assist Air Force members with any personnel related questions.

Every year vMPF grows larger as additional modules are placed out on the web for you to use. The key to the vMPF is to EXPLORE. Go through all of the sections of the vMPF and take advantage of everything it has to offer. This article only skimmed the surface of what's out there now. Check it out!

Operation Enduring Friendship

Community's support goes beyond recent operation, even before base opened

By Col. Keye Sabol
319th Air Refueling Wing, commander

Even before there were people at Grand Forks Air Force Base, the spirit of good will and friendship has existed between the Grand Forks community and the base. It was the gracious monetary donation from the citizens of Grand Forks that purchased the 5,400 acres of land 15 miles west of the city that has served as the foundation for the base since 1954. So, Operation Enduring Friendship did not start yesterday, or even a year ago. The friendship between the base and the Grand Forks community has been around from the start.

It has been accentuated during times of disaster and conflict such as the winter and spring of 1997 and the current War on Terrorism. Since September 11, our wing has been operating at a fast

and furious pace and the community has been the wind beneath our wings; providing letters of support, care packages, homecoming welcomes and taking care of our families. We've made an unbeatable team, winning the Abilene Trophy for the best community support in Air Mobility Command, the Solano Trophy for the best supertanker wing in the Air Force and the best active duty wing in the 15th Air Force.

I've never seen a more supportive community - and you have always followed through!

The Military Affairs Committee has not been just a place to meet, but has been a forum for improvement and action.

The University of North Dakota has continuously offered our military members and their families world class education opportunities while serving at Grand Forks AFB, as well as exciting

sporting and cultural events to attend year after year.

So, with such a long standing tradition of close support and community ties, it was hard to imagine how much more could be offered to our already grateful service members. When the UND senior associate to the president, Dr. Phil Harmeson, mentioned his plans, I was speechless. The gifts offered to our base members from UND, partnered with local organizations and businesses in both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, is absolutely phenomenal and the first of its kind. Free admission to nearly all of the sporting events at UND alone was a tremendous offering, but adding complimentary tickets to cultural exhibits, plays and discounts at area businesses takes it over the top. This type of outreach from an entire community is amazing. The citizens of Grand Forks have raised the standard even higher on an already benchmark community support program.

I have seen and felt the effects of Grand Forks support as a commander both at home and deployed. Our military members should never take for granted what the Grand Cities have to offer here - I know I won't!



Col. Keye Sabol

My family and I feel we have become part of a larger extended family - you have taken us in as your own; and that has not stopped with us - it can be said the same for the men and women of Grand Forks AFB.

I am overwhelmed by your graciousness, your spirit and your support. The Warriors of the North thank you and salute you for what you have done and what you continue to do for us, our Air Force and for our Nation!

'I have seen and felt the effects of Grand Forks support as a commander both at home and deployed. Our military members should never take for granted what the Grand Cities has to offer here - I know I won't!'

-- Col. Keye Sabol
319th Air Refueling Wing, commander

‘Operation Air Force’

Base hosts USAFA and ROTC cadets

By Cadet Jamieson Greer
Contributing writer

Six Air Force Academy and four ROTC cadets arrived on base June 9 for “Operation Air Force,” a two-week program encompassing base tours, job shadowing, and even an orientation flight to Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

The cadets’ visit is an annually sponsored program organized this year with the help of Capt. Russ Davis of the 905th Refueling Squadron and 1st Lt. Bradley Ames of the 319th Civil Engineering Squadron.

From their welcome brief by the 319th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, Col. Steve Wayne and representatives of the group staffs, to tours of facilities and shadowing officers from all over the base, the cadet’s visit was packed with activities.

One highlight for the cadets was experiencing a tanker mission to Hickam AFB, Hawaii where they were able to observe takeoff, refueling, and landing procedures during the course of the eleven-hour flight. The cadets endured fluctuating temperatures within the aircraft and the comfort of the red webbing passenger seats in exchange for a day on the beach at Waikiki, HI.

Upon their return the various groups in the wing began their recruiting pitches as many of the juniors and senior in the group will be requesting their specific active duty jobs in the coming school year. Members of the 319th Medical Group briefed the cadets on services and career opportunities available in the medical group. The mention of a \$30,000 signing bonus for dentists produced raised eyebrows around the table and encouraged some of the future officers to consider the medical corps when planning their Air Force careers.

Not to be outdone by the medical group Capt John Pantleo, a KC-135 pilot in the 906th Squadron, attempted to persuade several aspiring pilots in the cadet group to choose the KC-135 Stratotanker as their airframe.

The cadets also gained a greater appreciation for the services provided by the 319th Mission Support Group as they toured the services squadron, military personnel flight, the fire department, and security forces squadron. The base firefighters’ busy schedule caused cadets to reflect on the service provided by these airmen to “protect those who defend,” as their motto states.

A visit to 319th Maintenance Group also showed the dedication of the Air Force maintainers. Technical Sgt. Rod Reamy, 319th Maintenance Squadron, isochronal dock chief described the long and demanding process of cleaning, unpaneling, and repairing a tanker after deployment. Besides visiting quality assurance and the fuel cell workshop, cadets had the opportunity to shadow Senior NCOs who gave advice on professional relations, personnel issues and Air Force life in general. Senior Master Sgt. Jay Collins taught cadets that a key

to being a good leader is “taking people’s good parts and using them to accomplish the mission.”

Operation Air Force gives cadets an opportunity to experience social and vocational aspects of Air Force life in preparation for their commission as active-duty officers. The feedback from the cadets was one of pleasant surprise when reflecting on their visit to Grand Forks AFB, a reaction shared by many others cadet group visit in past years.

Cadet Sam Robino, from Los Angeles, California, said “I’m grateful for the chance we had to get a taste for several fields, especially flying and communications.” The cadets extend an enthusiastic “thank you” to all who put in time and effort to create a successful Operation Air Force.

There are two more groups planned to visit Grand Forks later this summer as part of the Operation Air Force program.



Six Air Force Academy and four ROTC cadets and their escorts pose for a photo on the wing of a 319th Air Refueling Wing KC-135. They were here for “Operation Air Force,” a two-week program encompassing a base tour, job shadowing and even an orientation flight.

A priceless \$10.25

By Staff Sgt. Shane Sharp
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFPN) — Much has been said recently about our nation’s military and the operations it is involved in. Some people are supportive, while others are not so supportive, and each has his own way of showing it.

Three local girls demonstrated their support by raising money to help the deployed people in uniform.

At a recent promotion-recognition ceremony here, Marissa Uhlhorn, 10, Alicia Drum, 9, and Janae Kirschke, 10, passed a small folded letter to Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke, the 21st Space Wing’s command chief master sergeant.

The letter read:

“Dear Air Force, We have some money that we gathered up for the troops. Please send this to them so we can support them. If you would please send this to them it would be awesome! Thank you for your help. We have \$10.25 for them. We hope it really helps. We are very grateful for all the troops fighting for our country.”

Below their names was taped a \$10 bill

and a quarter.

“When they gave it to me and I read it, it was truly one of the most touching moments of my life,” said Clarke. “To see the true innocence in their giving when they expected nothing in return was a moving experience.”

The idea for the donation originated at a going-away party for Janae who was moving to Washington. Her father is in the Army and was reassigned to the Pentagon.

“We got together at her going-away party and thought we wanted to do something for the troops,” said Alicia, whose cousin is in the Army serving in Iraq. “We decided to raise some money, so we went around asking people for a donation.”

“Everyone at the party was a little surprised,” said Julie Drum, Alicia’s mother. “We thought they were joking until they came back around to collect the money.”

Once the money was collected, they had to figure out how to get it to the troops.

“We wanted to send it over to them, but we didn’t know where to send it,” said Marissa, who is the daughter of a local pastor. “So we decided to just give it to them here.”

After Janae had moved, Marissa and Alicia typed up the letter, printed it out, and taped the



Photo by Daneen Uhlhorn

money to it. Alicia’s father, Master Sgt. Brandy Drum, was being promoted during the ceremony, and the girls thought it would be a good opportunity to turn in the donation.

“We went to the ceremony for my dad, and (Clarke) seemed like the most important guy with the most stripes, so we gave it to him,” said Alicia.

“I’m thankful we have children that actually care about what’s going on,” said Brandy Drum, who works in the Air Force Space Command manpower and organization division. “For them to be aware and care enough to make an effort is great.”

Much of the girls’ awareness comes from school. The three attended Salem Lutheran School in Colorado Springs. Many of the students there have parents in the military, so the children are no strangers to deployments and life in the military.

“They see day to day what kids go through with parents deployed,” said Julie

(Left to right) Alicia Drum, Janae Kirschke and Marissa Uhlhorn wrote a letter supporting American airmen. Attached to the letter was \$10.25 to show they were “very grateful for all the troops fighting for our country.”

Drum. “Even the children that don’t have parents in the military see how it is for those kids whose parents are gone.”

“I’m very proud of my daughter and her friends,” said Daneen Uhlhorn, Marissa’s mother. “The war has been a big thing for quite a few kids with deployed parents, and we remember them in prayers. So I’m not too surprised the girls wanted to help. These are some go-getter girls. When they have an idea, they run with it.”

A donation of \$10.25 may not seem like a lot, but there is much more to it than cash value. According to Clarke, who passed the money along to the Red Cross, the donation letter sends a strong message of support and appreciation to the military.

“If we made a copy of that letter and put it in the pocket of every deployed soldier, sailor, airman, Coast Guardsman, and Marine, they would have no doubt that they are loved and supported here at home,” he said.

Community

Today

EVENING DINING AT THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CLUB: Tonight’s dinner at the Northern Lights Club is Mongolian BBQ from 5:30 to 8 pm. Don’t forget to get your Members First discount and it’s ATWIND Family Dining.

DEPLOYED SPOUSES DINNER DISCOUNT: Come out and enjoy dinner at the Northern Lights Club on tonight! Receive a 20% discount off your meal purchase if your spouse is deployed!

FRIDAYS AT LIBERTY SQUARE: Open Skating at Liberty Square tonight for ages 6-18 from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost is only \$3 for admission and \$2 for skate rental! The Teen Center at Liberty Square will be also be open tonight for ages 13-18 from 6 to 11 p.m.

Saturday

ATWIND COMMISSARY DAY: Get ready for the July 4th holiday at the

Commissary! Saturday, June 28 is the Base Commander’s ATWIND Commissary Day! Visit the commissary and receive an ATWIND game piece!



KARAOKE AT THE CLUB: Come out to the Club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. for Karaoke! Sing karaoke and receive an ATWIND game piece!

DANCING AT THE CLUB: Come out to the Club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and dance to ‘Club Mix’ music with “DJ “C””.

YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING: Saturdays at Dakota Lanes for ages 9 - 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. and ages 13 - 15 from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2.50/hour and .75 for shoe rental. Need 10 to hold; must sign up at the Youth Center to attend.

Sunday

FREE ATWIND MOVIE: Sinbad, Legend of the Seven Seas. Sunday, June

29 – 3 pm & 7 pm. First Come - First Serve! Preview the newest animated adventure for FREE at the Base Theater June 29 (3 pm and 7 pm shows).

It’s showing here on base before it hits downtown! June 29 has also been designated as the Base Commander’s ATWIND Movie Day at the Base Theater - each person attending will receive a free ATWIND game piece. This event is brought to you by the Grand Forks AAFES and the 319th Services Squadron.

Monday

CANDY BINGO: Every Monday for ages 6 - 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Youth Center.

Tuesday

SUMMER CAMPS: Sign up today through July 11 for Cheerleading Camp July 14 – 18 for ages 6 – 9 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and ages 10 & up from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Size limit is 15 per class. Cost is \$10, sign up at the Youth Center.

Sign up today through July 18 for Golf

Camp July 21 – 25 for ages 9 – 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Class size is limited to 20. Cost is \$50, sign up at the Youth Center. More summer camps are being offered through the Youth Programs, please call 747-3150 for a complete listing.



TORCH CLUB MEETING: The Youth Center holds a meeting every Tuesday for ages 11 – 13 from 8 to 9 p.m. For more information contact the Youth Center, 747-3150. Receive an ATWIND piece for attending!

TEENSUPREME MEETING: TeenSupreme Meeting every Tuesday for ages 14 – 18 from 9 to 10 p.m. at the Liberty Square TEEN Center. Questions contact the Youth Center 747-3150.

TOURNAMENT TUESDAYS: Come by the Youth Center to participate in Tournament Tuesdays! This activity is for ages 9 – 12 at 5:30 pm and 13 – 18 at 7 p.m. every Tuesday! The Tournament for today is “Ping Pong.”

Community

Wednesday



ATWIND WEDNESDAY AT OUTDOOR RECREATION: Register to Win Prizes and get your ATWIND

game piece today! First prize includes a one-night stay in a Rancher Cabin and a two-hour trail ride for up to four people at the Badlands Trail Rides & Eastview Campground in Killdeer, ND. Second prize is two complimentary tickets to Valley Fair in Shakopee, MN. Sponsored by: www.badlandstrailrides.com

One entry per person - must be 18 years or older to register and win. 319th Services Commander, Deputy, Flight Chiefs, Managers, Outdoor Recreation and Marketing employees and their families are not eligible to win.

No Federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Thursday

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT: Two fun filled nights at Rivercities Speedway! Thursday, July 3 and Friday, Aug. 15 (Family Fun Night)! **BUY-ONE-GET-ONE-FREE TICKETS!** Available only at Outdoor Recreation. Adults \$13; Kids \$5.00. Rivercities Speedway is located at 2300 Gateway Drive, 780-0999. For more information please contact: Outdoor Recreation at 747-3688

OPEN SKATING: There will be Open Skating at Liberty Square from 3 to 5 p.m. for ages 6 – 18 tonight. Cost is \$2 for admission and \$1 for skate rental. The TEEN Center will not be open at these times.

YOUTH OF THE QUARTER: The Youth of the Quarter Winner for April, May and June will be announced today.

TEEN STUDY GROUP: Teen Study Group: every Thursday at the Youth Center for ages 13 – 18 from 7 to 8 p.m.

Upcoming

FUN BUS: The Youth Program's FUN BUS will be coming to the playground at Langley & Randolph on July 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. Games, arts and crafts, tournaments and a variety of summer time activities for school-age youth will be offered by the youth programs staff.

VALLEY FAIR TRIP: July 14 departing 5 a.m. from outdoor recreation, returning the same evening around midnight Cost: \$40; includes transportation and admission to the park. Please sign up by July 11 at Outdoor Recreation, 747-3688.

PARENT ADVISORY MEETING: The next Parent Advisory Meeting is scheduled for July 16 at 4:15 p.m. at the Child Development Center. Guest speaker is Lynda Alerding and she will be discussing Car Seat Safety. Those who participate will receive one ATWIND game piece.

BASEWIDE SUMMER BASH PICNIC: Organizations or individuals who wish to participate or volunteer for the Grand Forks AFB's Annual ATWIND Summer Bash please contact Linda DePaolo by email or call 747-6483/3258. This year's Summer Bash theme is "Proud and Free in 2003!" and is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 14. The Summer Bash is a base wide picnic filled with fun events for all ages! Plus, don't miss the annual bed race! Watch for the schedule of events in July!

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER NOTABLES: The Skills Development Center's summer hours are now in effect: Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., closed Sundays, holiday weekends and goal days. There will be no classes offered for the month of June.

Have a large or special project to work on? Spouses groups may have free use of our classroom during regular operating hours. Please call 747-3482 to make a reservation.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAS CHILD CARE OPENINGS: If you are looking for childcare for your three to five year old contact the Child Development Center. We have several openings for this age group and offer care Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For additional information contact: Jackie or Tom at the Child Development Center, 747-3042.

OUTDOOR RECREATION NOTABLES: We have the new season's fishing licenses (required as of Apr. 1, 2003)! Available are certificates, individual fishing stamps, sportsmen's, and husband and wife fishing stamps.

Evening fishing trips: Outdoor Recreation will begin leading evening fishing trips to Devil's Lake in April for ice-

out walleyes and northern pike. Be on the lookout for notices about these upcoming trips.

Spring Bird-watching trips: The spring migration and breeding season begins this month and there are a number of places locally that draw a variety of interesting birds. At ODR we have binoculars and bird books that will get you started enjoying the birding season. We'll also be offering some evening and early morning birding trips as migrants arrive.

Camper and Boat Reservations: You can reserve a boat or camper the first day of the month prior to the month you need the equipment. Boat and camper reservation deposit fees are \$20 for weekend and \$40 for a week or longer. Deposits are non-refundable.

EXTENDED DUTY CHILD CARE: The Family Child Care Office offers an Extended Duty Child Care Program to help parents obtain childcare when they need it for duty-related reasons beyond their typical 50-hour per week childcare arrangements.

The program can accommodate such instances as temporary shift changes, unplanned longer duty days/weekend duties, short-term TDY's or when no other parent is available, and dual military or single parent deployments until children are picked up by Family Plan AF Form 357 designees.

Eligible users include active-duty military personnel assigned to or living on base, regardless of branch of service; DoD civilians, appropriated and nonappropriated, assigned to the base; Air National Guard and Air Reserve on active duty or during inactive duty personnel training; and DoD contractors assigned to the base; FCC providers who have medical appointments or need substitute care on a limited basis; Child Development Staff or school-age program staff required to work different shifts, longer hours, attend training and other child care emergencies that impact their ability to provide child care.

First priority must be active duty and DoD civilians. Parents must be enrolled in the program and meet the provider prior to use. For that reason, the family child care staff encourages parents who think they may need Extended Duty Child Care services in the future to enroll ahead of time to be prepared when duty calls.

The FCC coordinator serves as the point of contact with parents and providers. For more information on how this program can assist you, please call the Family Child Care Office at 747-4167.